

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. SD-6533/S93794
SERIAL NO. 09/788,053
PATENT

REMARKS

The Examiner stated that the reply filed on December 13, 2004 was not fully responsive to the Office Action mailed August 14, 2005. Specifically, the Examiner stated that the amended claims were noncompliant to CFR 37 § 121.


Applicant respectfully apologizes for the error of the inclusion of amended claims in the reply filed on December 13, 2004. Those claims were not from the referenced application and should not have been included. Additionally, language referencing the amendments to the claims in the second, third, and fourth paragraphs of the "Remarks" section should not have been included. A clean, corrected version of the reply originally filed on December 13, 2004 is included with this response.

In view of the foregoing and in conjunction with the corrected response (included as an attachment to this response), Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-22 are allowable and requests notice to that effect.

Further and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Date: 05/05/05

Respectfully submitted,


Madelynn J. Harder
Registration No. 45,410

Sandia National Laboratories
P.O. Box 5800, MS 0161
Albuquerque, NM 87185-0161
(p) 505-844-3858, (f) 505-844-9955

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The Examiner objected to the specification because of several informalities.

Applicant has amended page 6, lines 14 and 18 and page 7, line 17 to correct minor editorial problems. The Examiner also objected to the abstract, stating that "be they" on page 1, line 3 was grammatically incorrect. Applicant respectfully submits that the use of "be they" in this sentence is grammatically correct. This structure relates the list following "they" to the "abutting surfaces" that precedes "be." The list is of types of abutting surfaces.

Claims 1-22 are pending in the application.

Claims 4-11 and 15-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to make and/or use the invention. The Examiner specifically lists: determining the boundary of boundary surface, determining a 1-dimensional mesh at least twice as fine as the first trunk mesh, identifying pairs of nodes, moving a node from each pair to boundary, highest quality mesh elements, determining which node of each pair is closest to the boundary, and determining if the boundary spans the diagonal. Applicant respectfully submits that these limitations are described in the specification with sufficient detail to enable one skilled in the art to practice the invention. Applicant respectfully submits that the "boundary surface" and its boundaries are clearly and sufficiently described in the specification on page 5, lines 18-19, as the intersection of the trunk and branch. Applicant also submits that the first trunk mesh and its characteristics have been clearly and sufficiently described in the specification on page 6, lines 15-17 and line 23 and that once the fineness described in the specification (able to resolve all

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PATENT

small features of the trunk and graft/boundary surface) has been achieved in the first trunk mesh it is a simple matter to divide that fineness in half to make the determination of a 1-dimensional mesh. Further, Applicant submits that the "pairs of nodes" are identified based on their existence on the first trunk mesh at points discernable by the intersection (identified by using a simple three-dimensional intersection routine) of the 1-dimensional mesh with the first trunk mesh, as described in the specification beginning on page 6, line 25 and continuing onto page 7, in conjunction with Figure 2. The specification, continuing from page 7, line 4, under the heading of SMOOTHING THE MESH TO THE LOOP, in conjunction with Figure 3, describes moving nodes from the determined pairs to the boundary. Quality factors relating to the mesh elements are given throughout the specification and incorporated references. Ways to improve the quality are described in the specification beginning on page 8; these quality improvements also provide insight into the measurement of the quality. Some examples of the achievement of high quality through the use of the present invention are illustrated in Figure 7 (page 9, lines 13-15) and Figure 10 (page 9, lines 19-23). Applicant respectfully submits that the determination of closeness to one object to a second object (such as the closeness of a node to a boundary) is a matter of measurement and/or observation, as is the determination of whether or not a boundary spans the diagonal (as can be ascertained from the specification on page 7, lines 11-12, in conjunction with Figure 3.). For these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 4-11 and 15-22, and any claims that depend therefrom, are allowable.

Claims 1-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. SD-6533/S93794
SERIAL NO. 09/788,053
PATENT

which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner specifically points out the use of the term "proximal" in independent Claims 1 and 12. When one object is "proximal" to a second object, the first object is situated near the second object. The range of proximity can be discerned from the specification and its incorporated references. In the instances "proximal" does not refer to the location of the second mesh relative to the first mesh as the Examiner suggests, but refers to the location of a portion (of the first mesh) relative to the boundary surface (as described in the specification on page 5, lines 18-19). The Examiner also specifically points out the use of the term "substantially conform" in the claims. The amount of conformity can also be discerned from the specification and its incorporated references. For example, one aspect of conformity is described on page 9, lines 16-18, in conjunction with Figure 8. The Examiner also specifically points out the use of the term "at least twice as fine" as used in Claims 4 and 15. As previously discussed, fineness is described in the specification and it is a simple matter to multiply that by two (2) in order to achieve twice the amount. For these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that amended Claims 1-22 are allowable.

The Examiner has also provided some Claim Interpretation. Applicant respectfully submits that the foregoing addresses the interpretations that the Examiner has supplemented herein. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the claims be interpreted with reference to the explanations provided herein.

Claims 1, 4, 6, 12, 15, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Dohrmann et al (U.S. Patent Number 6,560,570), hereinafter "Dohrmann." The assignee for the present application is Sandia Corporation. The assignee for Dohrmann is also Sandia Corporation. The subject matter relied upon and the present

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. SD-6533/S93794
SERIAL NO. 09/788,053
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invention were subject to common assignment at the time the present invention was made. Therefore, Dohrmann is disqualified as prior art against the present invention. Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1, 4, 6, 12, 15, and 17, and any claims that depend therefrom, are in allowable form and requests reconsideration.


Claims 1-22 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dohrmann in view of Staten et al (State et al, "BMSweep: Locating Interior Nodes During Sweeping", Proceedings of the 7th International Roundtable 98, pages 7-18, October 1998), hereinafter referred to as "Staten," and Applicants Own Admission, hereinafter referred to as "AOA." As described above, Dohrmann and the present invention were, at the time the invention was made, subject to an obligation of assignment to a common assignee, Sandia Corporation. Therefore, Dohrmann is disqualified as prior art against the present invention. Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-22 are in allowable form and requests reconsideration.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-22, as amended, are allowable and requests notice to that effect.

Further and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 05/05/05
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with errors on Dec. 13, 2004.


Madelynne J. Barber
Registration No. 45,410

Sandia National Laboratories
P.O. Box 5800, MS 0161
Albuquerque, NM 87185-0161
(p) 505-844-3858, (f) 505-844-9955